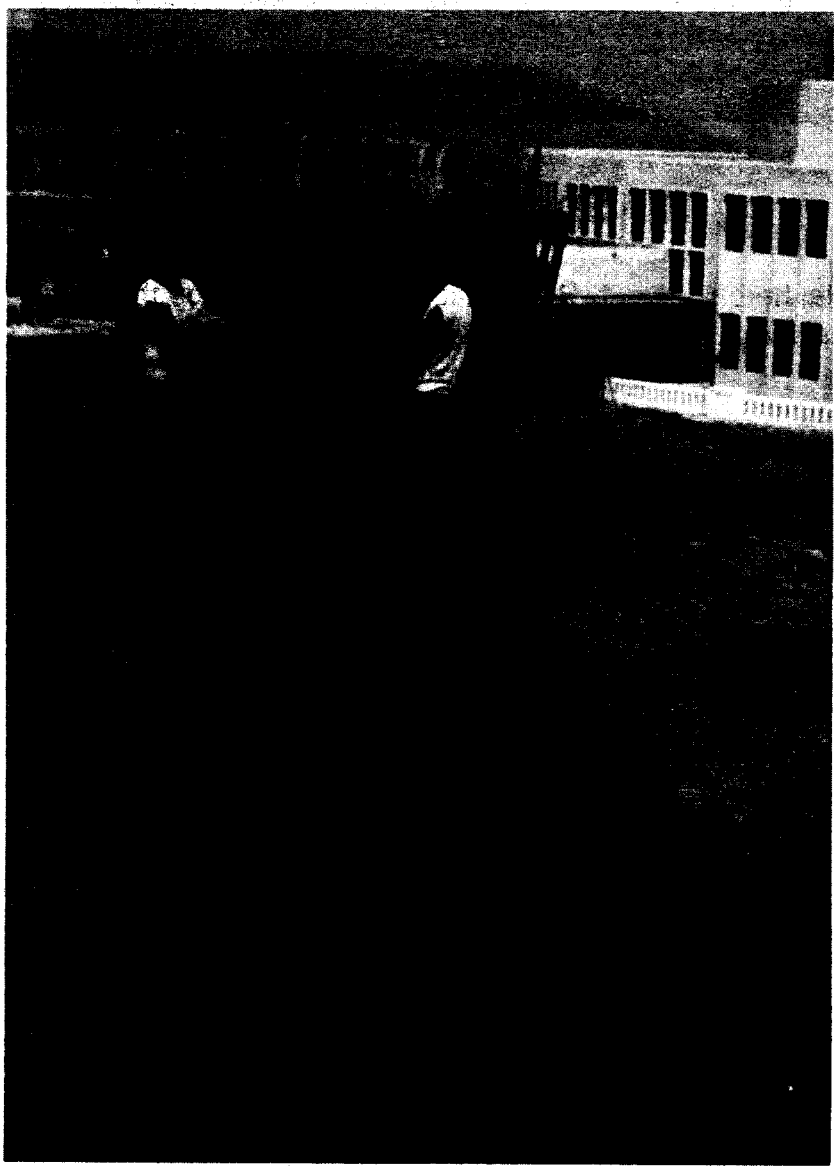
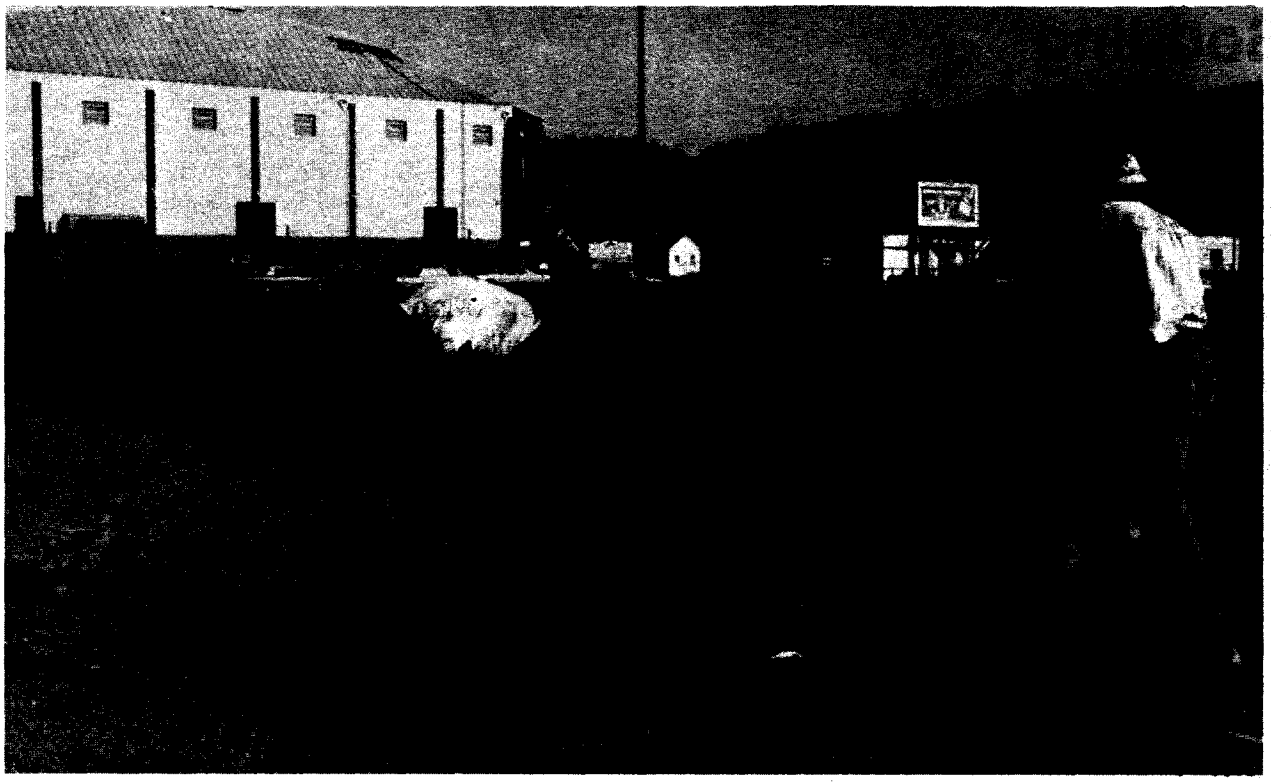
Sodding

General

Sodding is the stabilization of a disturbed area by use of sod obtained from another area. This practice is most applicable where a quick, dense turf is required in the shortest possible time. Satisfactory establishment depends on ground preparation, the quality of the sod used, and the quality of sod placement. One other item is that new sod needs watering to get a good start, especially in hot weather.



On some waterways, establishing a protective cover may be done effectively using high quality grass sod.



Natural sod makes an instant lawn.

Sodding

Definition: Establishing perennial herbaceous vegetation on critical areas using sod.

Purpose: To stabilize the soil, control erosion, and reduce runoff to downstream areas.

Where Applicable: On disturbed areas resulting from many kinds of urban construction. Most applicable on areas where frequent runoff water is expected and cannot otherwise be controlled. Applicable where a quick cover of grasses and/or legumes is needed (where damage might occur before a seeded stand can be established).

Specifications

1. Preparation of the site will be the same as if seeding were planned. Needed grading will be completed on the area to be seeded. Stone will be removed.

2. Lime and fertilizer will be applied according to soil test requirements. In lieu of a soil test, figure lime rate 2 to 3 tons per acre (115/lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.) and fertilizer rate of 1,000 pounds of 10-20-10 per acre (23 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.). Lime and fertilizer should be mixed with soil to a depth of 3 inches.

3. Types of sodding:

   a. All of the area may be sodded. Examples are: a small lawn, steep bank, outlets, and areas where heavy use is expected immediately. Use Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue, or a mixture of these species with redtop.

b. Strip sodding: Outlets and gullies can be stabilized effectively using strips of sod and seeding in between the strips. In addition to Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue, and redtop, vigorous sod of tall fescue and reed canary grass can be used for sod strips at right angles to flow of water. Strips should be 2 to 6 feet apart, depending on site.

4. Placing sod:

a. Sod should be carefully placed and pressed together so it will be continuous without any voids between the pieces. Joints between the ends of strips should be staggered. The edge of the sod at the outer edges of all gutters should be sufficiently deep so that the surface water will flow over the sod and not underneath sod strips.

b. On gutter and channel sodding, the sod should be carefully placed in rows or strips at right angles to the centerline of the channel (i.e., at right angles to the direction of flow). On steep graded channels, each strip of sod should be staked with at least two stakes not more than 18 inches apart. The stakes should be wood and should be approximately 1/2 by 3/4 inch by 12 inches long. They should be driven flush with the top of the sod and with the flat side against the slope.

c. On slopes 3 to 1 or steeper and where the drainage area into a sod gutter or channel is one-half acre or larger, 2-inch poultry netting or woven wire should be staked in place on the surface of the sod. The netting and sod should be staked with at least two stakes not more than 18 inches apart.

d. The stakes should be wood and should be approximately 1/2 inch by 3/4 inch by 24 inches. They should be driven with the flat side against the slope and on an angle toward the slope. The netting should be stapled on the side of each stake within 2 inches of the top of the stake. The stake should then be driven flush with the top of the sod.

e. The sod should be tamped lightly or rolled after placing to ensure good contact between sod and underlying soil. Rolling should be perpendicular to the direction sod strips were laid. Watering should consist of a thorough soaking of the sod and of the sod bed to a depth of at least 4 inches. The sod should be maintained in a moist condition by watering for a period of 30 days.